

SECRET CONTROL

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Source, Operational Data, and Comments:

The source of this report is subject of ZJA-560.
His sub-sources as listed in the report are:

a. [] disciple of []
b. [] minor police official,
c. [] chief of a sub-section of Tokyo Metropolitan Police Board dealing with rightist activities.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO.

ZJJ-239

INFORMATION REPORT

JAPAN COMPOSITE UNIT

COUNTRY Japan

SUBJECT Coup d'etat Allegedly Being Planned by
Ex-Militarists and Ultranationalists.

PLACE ACQUIRED Japan, Tokyo

DATE OF INFO. Prior to 25 October 1952.

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(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
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GRADING OF SOURCE					COLLECTOR'S PRELIMINARY GRADING OF CONTENT						
COMPLETED	USUALLY RELIABLE	FAMILY	NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	NOT RELIABLE	CANNOT BE JUDGED	CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES	POSSIBLY TRUE	POSSIBLY FAKE	DOUBTFUL	POSSIBLY FALSE	CANNOT BE JUDGED
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE American observer from:

- (a) Former Chinese general officer with Third Force contacts, and with wide contacts among ex-Japanese army officers formerly stationed in China and now engaged in intelligence activities. (Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.)
- (b) Japanese rightist, disciple of well-known ultranationalist leader. (Paragraphs 3, 5, 6.)
- (c) Minor Japanese police official in a position to be cognizant of rightist activities in the Tokyo area. (Paragraphs 3, 5.)

Field Comment. Since the practical completion of the depurge of ex-militarists and rightists in the spring of 1952, there have been many rumors concerning rightists attempts to stage a comeback into Japanese political life. This report is the first to mention a definite rightist plan involving violence. The existence of this plan is not corroborated from any other source. ZJJ-238 contains information indicating that persons mentioned in this report are considered by certain police officials as capable of plotting violence at some future date.

1. Since the beginning of July 1952 plans for a coup d'etat have been initiated by a group of ex-purges including former military officers. The leader of the group is ex-Colonel MATTOI Yukushiro (2591/6752/0587/0943/6743), the other five members of the group being: SODAKA Ichiro (1040/3768/6235/1807/1120), ANANO Isamu (1131/6851/6551/1133), HORII Kenichiro (2609/7035/2009/0001/6745), and ex-Colonels MATTOI Kumei (1064/2597/1956/1180) and SHIBATA Kura (from) 4457/2625).

2. TSUJI Masanobu (11/2973/0207) had been chosen as the front man for the group, and is reportedly under MATTOI's control. (2) Not a member of the group, but closely associated with MATTOI, is former Rear Admiral SHIBATA Shige (2623/1472/0676/7156); who has close connections with Third Force Chinese. Sympathetic with the aims of the group are: Lt-General YAGI Kiichi (1342/0992/0001/6850), KIKURA Tokutaro (2466/2625/1795/1132/6745), OGAWA Tuketora (4872/2455/4534/5706), MORITA Masao (2773/3944/2412/1133), WATANABE Setsuro (3236/6708/6993/5661), and an unspecified number of former members of the Makino Intelligence School. The group has the backing of 500,000 persons throughout Japan.

3. The original plan of the group was to engineer a coup d'etat, including the assassination of Prime Minister YOSHIDA Shigeru, on account of his hostile attitude toward depurges and nationalists. The group hoped to replace YOSHIDA.

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as Prime Minister with HAYOTANI Ichiro (7662/1472/0001/6745). TSUJI has persuaded the group that now is not the time for a coup d'état. He maintains that it is not YOSHIDA who is the prime adversary of the group, and of rightists in general, but rather the Socialist Party.

The group is now amenable to postponing the coup as long as the Liberal Party remains in power, or even if SHIGEMIJI Matsuo (6850/0342/522), president of the Progressive Party, should become Prime Minister. Ultimately they hope to succeed in having OGATA Takeshi made Prime Minister once the rightists get into power again.

The group is considering the possibility of some minor assassination attempt in lieu of a coup d'état. HIROKAWA Keizan (1654/1557/4/6407) is the likely candidate for assassination, and the agent of assassination might probably be either NAKAMURA Takeshi (0022/2625/2976) or SUGOYA Itsumo (0146/6763/1499), 3966/7160.

6. The National Safety Agency is to be utilised in the event of the coup d'état. IMOTO has already been appointed to a post in the Agency, and TSUJI is in control of a faction within the Agency.

1. Field Comment. KODAMA, ANAMO and SUGOYA are well-known ultranationalists who have from time to time been mentioned as associates of TSUJI. IMOTO has previously been reported to be HATTORI's colleague (see ZJJ-67, 72, 84).

2. Field Comment. TSUJI does not have the reputation of being under anyone's control. His very successful personal publicity campaign in the summer of 1952 resulted in a landslide vote electing him to the Diet in the 1 October election. Paragraph 3 of this report indicates that TSUJI is capable of influencing the NATIONAL group.

3. Field Comment. MORITA Masao is the successor to his brother-in-law, the late YOSHIDA Hidezo, as leader of the Patriotic Youth Comrades Association (Aikoku Seinen Yushi Kai); (See ZJJ-238)

4. Field Comment. No breakdown is given for this figure, which seems to be an exaggeration. TSUJI, as leader of the revived East Asia League (Toz Kansai), probably has a following of between 50,000 and 75,000 members.

5. Field Comment. ZJJ-238 mentions the animosity of ANAMO and SUGOYA toward YOSHIDA.

6. Source Comment. OGATA is reputed to have influential connections in China and other Asiatic countries, and would therefore be useful in any effort made later by the rightists toward an Asiatic sphere.

7. Field Comment. See ZJJ-238 for police opinion concerning the animosity of SUGOYA toward HIROKAWA, and concerning the possibility of violence being staged by NAKAMURA or MORITA.

8. Field Comment. TSUJI is reported to have a faction in the National Safety Agency, comprised in part of members of his own 35th class of the Military Academy.

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